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NEWS RELEASE

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Clandestine Drug Laboratory Draft Rules Available on the Internet

The draft rules addressing cleanup standards for clandestine drug laboratories are now available for review on the Internet. Public meetings for comments on the rules are scheduled throughout the state from October 11 through October 24th.

The Idaho Legislature passed Senate Bill 1122 last legislative session, charging the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare with the authority to develop rules establishing standards for the cleanup of clandestine drug laboratories. Idaho is one of many states that have passed legislation to protect unsuspecting people who may rent or purchase a home from exposure to hazardous chemical residues that result from the operation of a clandestine drug lab.

The Bureau of Community and Environmental Health worked with a group of stakeholders to develop the draft rules. Participants included legislators, law enforcement, legal representatives, property managers, realtor groups, regulatory authorities, public health officials, contractors, and other interested stakeholders.

The public hearings will focus on collecting comments on ways to improve the draft rules. The hearings are not a forum to debate the law. Written comments can also be submitted to Sherri Kovach, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Administrative Procedures Section, 450 West State Street – 10th Floor, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0036 or kovachs@idhw.state.id.us. All written comments must be received or delivered directly to the Administrative Procedures Section on or before October 26, 2005.

(more)

Following the series of public hearings, the final proposed rules and all public comments will be presented to the Director of Health and Welfare. The final rules will then go to the 2006 Idaho Legislature for approval.

The public hearings are scheduled for 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at each location:

- **October 11: Boise, AmeriTel Spectrum, 7499 West Overland;**
- **October 12: Lewiston, Red Lion, 621 21st St.;**
- **October 13: Coeur d'Alene, AmeriTel, 333 Ironwood Ave.;**
- **October 17: Twin Falls, AmeriTel, 1377 Blue Lakes Blvd. North;**
- **October 18: Pocatello, AmeriTel, 1440 Bench Rd.;**
- **October 19: Idaho Falls, AmeriTel, 645 Lindsey; and**
- **October 24: Caldwell, Best Western, 908 Specht Rd.**

The draft rules are available at <http://www2.state.id.us/adm/adminrules/bulletin/bul/05octvol1.pdf> and can be found on page 184 of the administrative bulletin. A copy of Senate Bill 1122 "Clandestine Drug Laboratory Cleanup Act" is available at <http://www3.state.id.us/idstat/TOC/06026KTOC.html>. Those who do not have Internet access can obtain copies of the draft rules and Senate Bill 1122 by calling 1-800-445-8647.

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(Editors: For more information please contact Elke Shaw-Tulloch, Bureau Chief for Community and Environmental Health for the Department of Health and Welfare, at 334-5950.)